

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An anhydrous bituminous composition, consisting essentially of:
bitumen, and
dewatered lignin-containing spent alkaline pulping liquor stably dispersed therein.
2. (Amended) The bituminous composition of claim 1 wherein said dewatered spent alkaline pulping liquor is present in an amount of no more than about 50 wt% of the bitumen.
4. (Amended) A bituminous composition, consisting essentially of:
bitumen, and
dewatered lignin-containing spent alkaline pulping liquor stably dispersed therein wherein said dewatered spent alkaline pulping liquor comprises an anhydrous colloidal dispersion of lignin in a lubricating oil.
5. (Amended) A bituminous composition, consisting essentially of:
bitumen, and
dewatered lignin-containing spent alkaline pulping liquor stably dispersed therein wherein said dewatered spent alkaline pulping liquor comprises a stable, substantially anhydrous, colloidal dispersion of lignin in the bitumen.
7. (Amended) A method of producing a composition, which comprises:
converting an aqueous colloidal dispersion of liquor in spent pulping lignin to an anhydrous colloidal dispersion of lignin in a lubricating oil by mixing a lubricating oil with the spent pulping liquor, and
dewatering the mixture so formed at an elevated temperature to form a cream-like paste compatible with bitumen.
11. (Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the anionic surfactant is a linear alkyl fatty acid sulfonate.
12. (Amended) A method of producing a composition, which comprises:
converting an aqueous colloidal dispersion of lignin in spent pulping liquor to an anhydrous colloidal dispersion of lignin in a lubricating oil, and
blending the anhydrous colloidal dispersion of lignin in a lubricating oil with bitumen.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the spent pulping liquor is present in an amount of about 10 to about 60 wt% of the final composition.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the spent pulping liquor is present in an amount of about 25 to 40 wt% of the final composition.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said converting step is effected by dewatering at elevated temperature.